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Conservative-Led Group Got \$1 Million in CIA Funds

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The Central Intelligence Agency spent more than \$1 million to support at least one organization — the Cuban Freedom Committee — whose board includes a number of political conservatives.

Barry Goldwater, the Republican party's 1964 presidential candidate, said in a Sunday television appearance that the CIA worked "to finance socialism in America" by pouring millions of dollars into left-of-center private groups.

The typically complex transfer of funds from the CIA to the Cuban Freedom Committee's "Free Cuba Radio" involves at least five organizational levels and dates back to 1960.

Prior to that time, the Christianform, a Washington-based organization and "father" of the Cuban Freedom Committee, had been operating on an annual budget of \$3,000 to \$10,000 "to advance the defeat of atheistic communism."

Sources of Funds

As part of its effort to topple the Castro government in Cuba, the CIA turned to the Christianform. In 1960, its income rose sharply because of contributions of \$13,000 from the Price Fund of New York and \$45,000 from the Borden Trust of Philadelphia.

Both foundations were named during 1956 congressional hearings as conduits for CIA payments to private organizations.

The next year, the Christianform reported donations of \$10,000 from the Jones-O'Donnell Foundation of Dallas, \$10,000 from the Kentfield Fund of Dallas, \$25,000 from the Beacon Fund of Boston, \$25,000 from the Edsel Fund of San Francisco, \$40,000 from the Andrew Hamilton Fund of Philadelphia, \$25,000 from the Marshall Foundation of Houston, \$10,000 from the J. Frederick Brown Foundation of Boston, \$60,000 from Borden and \$20,000 from Price.

All those groups have been

identified as CIA conduits. As a result of their contributions, the Christianform's 1961 income rose to \$229,100, more than 20 times the receipts reported two years earlier.

Income continued to rise, although in successive years the Christianform abandoned the practice of publicly disclosing the source of the funds. By 1964, the organization was spending \$591,000 annually.

Combatted Castro Propaganda

At the same time Christianform's revenues began rising, it began to list a new subsidiary — the Cuban Freedom Committee, an organization dedicated "to combat Castro's Communist

propaganda" and to "prevent the spread of communism in this hemisphere."

The committee's principal activity is the operation of Free Cuba Radio, which at one time broadcast programs aimed at Cubans from five radio stations in Southeastern United States and the Caribbean.

The Cuban Freedom Committee no longer is listed as a Christianform subsidiary but as late as 1964, the most recent year for which tax returns are available, Christianform reported that \$433,000 of its \$591,000 in expenses went for "broadcasting" purposes.

Conservatives on Board

Two members of the Cuban Freedom Committee's advisory board are avowed conservatives. They are former Rep. Donald C. Bruce, R-Ind., and Texas Republican party Chairman Peter O'Donnell Jr.

The organization's chairman, Pennsylvania businessman John B. McClatchy, has participated in "political action conferences" sponsored by Human Events, a conservative weekly publication, and is a life member of the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, another conservative organization.

O'Donnell, a leader of the National Draft Goldwater Committee in 1964, acknowledged last week that the Jones-O'Donnell Foundation, which he heads, served as a conduit for CIA funds going into Cuban Freedom Committee and other groups.

Another board member, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, first secretary of health education and welfare under former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is a principal in the Hobby Foundation.

Her son William acknowledged last week that the foundation was still another CIA conduit.

Two House Liberals

Other members of the committee's board include two House members considered liberals — Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., and Rep. Roman C. Pucinski, D-Ill.

Pell said he "always suspected" that CIA funds were supporting the radio operation and Pucinski said he "would be a surprised man, in light of recent developments, if the CIA had not participated."

Pucinski said he did not know of any CIA support for the anti-Castro broadcasts, but said he would "commend the CIA for its perspicacity" if it was found to financing the operation.

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